

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY DOT/FHWA:WBMCKENDRICK:MRC
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS STATE 123784

FOR DANIEL HAMMOND, FHWA TEAM

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, USIRJC, IR

SUBJECT: PROPOSED VRT/FHWA AGREEMENT

1. THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A LETTER BEING FORWARDED
BY INTERNATIONAL MAIL TO H.E. EBRAHIM FARAHBAKHSIAN FROM
MR. WILLIAM M. COX, FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR. PLEASE
HAND-CARRY CABLE TO H.E. FARAHBAKHSIAN.

QUOTE DEAR MR. MINISTER: IN JANUARY 1977, MESSRS. HARRY
A LINDBERG, ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR FOR ENGINEERING AND
TRAFFIC OPERATIONS, AND WALTER B. MCKENDRICK, CHIEF,
FOREIGN PROJECTS DIVISION, CONFERRED WITH YOU AND MEMBERS
OF YOUR STAFF WITH REGARD TO CONTINUATION OF THE PRESENT
PROGRAM OF COOPERATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE
MINISTRY OF ROADS AND TRANSPORT (VRT). BEFORE DEPARTING
IRAN, MR. LINDBERG SUBMITTED TO YOU ON JANUARY 19, 1977
A PROPOSED AGREEMENT THAT WOULD CONTINUE THE PROGRAM TO
JUNE 30, 1979. ALSO INCLUDED WAS A SCHEDULE OF DATES
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FOR ADEQUATE FINANCING OF THE PRESENT AGREEMENT AND
REVIEW AND SUBSEQUENT EXECUTION OF THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT.
SCHEDULING OF THIS TYPE WAS AND CONTINUES TO BE NECESSARY
IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY LEADTIME THAT WILL PERMIT
THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION (FHWA) TO RESPOND IN A
TIMELY MANNER TO THE NEEDS OF THE VRT AS PROVIDED FOR

UNDER THE TERMS OF THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT. OF A MORE CRITICAL NATURE IS THE DECISION TO REMAIN IN IRAN OR RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES, WHICH THREE EMPLOYEES OF THE FHWA IRAN TEAM MUST MAKE BY EARLY JUNE 1977. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE HAVE A DEFINITE COMMITMENT FROM YOUR COUNTRY IN ORDER FOR US TO ARRANGE FOR THE HANDLING OF THESE EMPLOYEES.

IN EARLY MAY, MR. MCKENDRICK RETURNED TO IRAN AND MET WITH YOU AND MEMBERS OF YOUR STAFF TO AGAIN EMPHASIZE THE NEED FOR REACHING AND EXECUTING AN AGREEMENT. IN A LETTER TO DEPUTY MINISTER ALI AYNEHCHIAN DATED MAY 9, 1977, MR. MCKENDRICK REQUESTED REVIEW AND CONCURRENCE BY THE MINISTRIES INVOLVED AND THE PREPARATION OF FINAL COPY READY FOR EXECUTION BY THE IRANIAN WEEK OF JUNE 4, 1977.

OUR DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR IN IRAN INFORMS US THAT VERY LITTLE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN HIS DISCUSSION WITH YOUR STAFF TOWARD ATTAINING A FINAL AGREEMENT. WE ALSO NOTE THAT LITTLE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN OBTAINING REVIEW AND CONCURRENCE IN THE TERMS OF THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT BY OTHER MINISTRIES, WHICH WILL UNDOUBTEDLY TAKE SOME TIME.

WE HAVE NEGOTIATED WITH YOUR MINISTRY IN GOOD FAITH OVER THESE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS IN ATTEMPTING TO DEVELOP A NEW AGREEMENT. IN ORDER THAT FHWA CAN MEET ITS OBLIGATIONS TO ITS EMPLOYEES AND OTHER PROGRAMS, WE MUST INSIST UPON

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HAVING A NEW SIGNED AGREEMENT BY JUNE 11, 1977, FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1, 1977, TO JUNE 30, 1979, AND ASSURANCE OF ADEQUATE FINANCING AT LEAST THROUGH IRANIAN FISCAL YEAR 2536.

IT IS, THEREFORE, WITH REGRET THAT WE MUST ADVISE YOU THAT UNLESS FULL AGREEMENT IS REACHED WITH YOUR MINISTRY, IN WRITING, BY JUNE 11, 1977, WE SHALL BE OBLIGATED TO RECALL THE ENTIRE FHWA DIVISION OFFICE STAFF.
END QUOTE. VANCE

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